

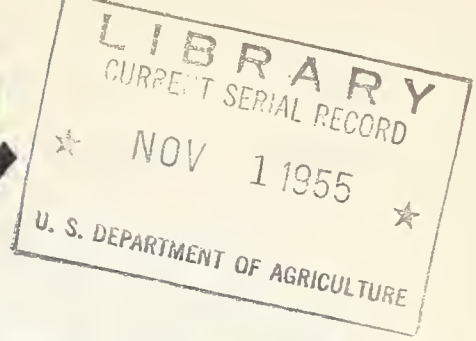
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Foreign



CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1955

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

BANANA EXPORTS INCREASING

Banana exports from Panama during August increased to 644,000 stems as compared with 376,000 stems exported in August 1954. In Honduras, the banana plantations are recovering more rapidly from flood damage than had been anticipated. Honduran exports are now expected to reach 8.2 million stems this year as compared with the 9.2 million stems exported in 1954. Brazil is exporting a record number of bananas. The 1939 record of 11.9 million stems exported is expected to be topped this year by shipment of 13.5 million stems. Argentina is receiving 84 percent of the Brazilian bananas, the United Kingdom 10 percent, and Uruguay 6 percent. The Caribbean and Latin American countries compete with Brazil on the United Kingdom market.

BWI GRAPEFRUIT PROSPECTS

Total production of Marsh and Duncan grapefruit in Jamaica this coming season is forecast at 280,000 boxes. It is expected that about 50,000 boxes of fresh fruit will be shipped to England and 15,000 to New Zealand. The remainder will be processed into juice or sections, mostly for British markets.

Trinidad citrus production is expected to be nearly one-third less than last season.

British Honduras suffered only minor losses of citrus from the recent hurricane "Janet," which hit the northern district of Corozal but only grazed the Stann Creek area.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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CANADA CONFIRMS HIGH
GRAIN PRODUCTION LEVELS

Canada's harvesting results are substantiating earlier forecasts of above-average grain production, though some reductions from earlier forecasts are noted. Near-ideal harvesting weather has been reported over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces, enabling producers to harvest a crop of high quality under generally excellent conditions. Harvesting was virtually completed in Manitoba by September 15 and was well advanced in Saskatchewan and those parts of Alberta where the crop was not late. Most harvesting had been completed by the end of September, though rain and an unseasonable fall of snow delayed harvesting in some parts of Alberta.

CANADA: Acreage, production, and yields of grain
and hay crops, 1954 and 1955

Crop	Area		Yield per acre		Production	
	1954	1955	1954	1955 1/	1954	1955 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Winter wheat	710	582	34.0	34.4	24,140	20,021
Spring wheat	23,557	20,922	12.1	22.9	284,769	478,321
Total wheat:	24,267	21,504	12.7	23.2	308,909	498,342
Oats for grain	10,161	11,178	30.2	36.7	306,793	409,991
Barley	7,856	9,912	22.3	26.0	175,509	258,025
Rye	850	778	16.7	19.3	14,176	15,050
Mixed grains	1,633	1,705	37.6	37.6	61,454	64,076
Corn for grain	418	510	53.4	57.4	22,339	29,300
Buckwheat	130	127	17.7	17.8	2,316	2,269
					1,000	1,000
			Tons	Tons	tons	tons
Tame Hay	10,802	11,055	1.81	1.75	19,549	19,350

1/ Estimates based on conditions in mid-September

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Wheat production for the current season is estimated at 498.3 million bushels, 61 percent above last year's revised estimate of 308.9 million, and 12 percent above the average of the past 10 years. The increase over the 1954 level is entirely due to better yields. Acreage is about 2.8 million acres less than in 1954. Yields this season are now placed at 22.9 bushels per acre, compared with 12.1 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 17.3. Winter wheat production is slightly less than in 1954 because of reduced acreage. (Contd., next page.)

This year's wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces is estimated at 476 million bushels. Saskatchewan's crop of 300 million bushels is about double the 1954 harvest in that province, despite a substantial reduction in acreage. Production in Alberta is estimated at 135 million bushels compared with 105 million a year ago. Acreage is slightly less than in 1954. In Manitoba too, slightly reduced acreage was offset by much higher yields. A total of 41 million bushels is forecast, compared with 26 million last year.

Oats for grain is estimated at 410 million bushels, a good grain over the 307 million produced a year ago, though only 11 percent above the 10-year average. Acreage is a million acres larger than a year ago and yields of 36.7 bushels per acre are 6.5 bushels above the 1954 average. The 1955 barley crop of 258 million bushels is a near-record production, exceeded only in 1952 and 1953. An acreage increase of 2.1 million acres contributed to the bumper crop.

Total rye production is forecast at 15 million bushels, 8 percent below the average of the past 10 years. Of the total, fall rye accounts for 11.5 million bushels and spring rye, 3.5 million bushels. Mixed grains are estimated at 64 million bushels, slightly above the 1954 harvest because of increased acreage.

CANADA REPORTS LARGER DURUM WHEAT PRODUCTION

Canada's 1955 durum wheat crop is tentatively estimated at 17.2 million bushels, according to preliminary estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This compares with the very small harvest of 6.6 million last year. The larger outturn is due to greatly increased yields, with acreage somewhat smaller than in 1954. (See table below. Text contd., opposite page.)

CANADA: Acreage, yield per acre, and production of durum wheat in the Prairie Provinces, 1954 and 1955

Province	Area		Yield per acre		Production	
	1954	1955	1954	1955 ^{1/}	1954	1955 ^{1/}
	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>:</u> <u>Bushels</u>	<u>:</u> <u>Bushels</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bushels</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bushels</u>
Manitoba	65	20	6.2	15.0	400	300
Saskatchewan	600	475	7.7	23.8	4,600	11,300
Alberta	80	200	20.0	28.0	1,600	5,600
Total	745	695	8.9	24.7	6,600	17,200

^{1/} Estimates based on conditions in mid-September.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

A sharp cut in durum acreage in Saskatchewan and Manitoba followed the unfavorable season of 1954 when unusually severe rust damage sharply reduced the outturn in those Provinces. The largest reduction took place in Saskatchewan, with a reduction of 125,000 acres from the 1954 area of 600,000 acres. At the same time durum acreage in Manitoba fell from 65,000 acres to 20,000. An increase in Alberta's acreage was a partially offsetting factor.

Yields in Saskatchewan are now estimated to be 23.8 bushels per acre, more than three times the low 1954 yields. Yields in Alberta are reported at 28 bushels per acre, compared with 20 bushels last year. Manitoba's indicated yield of 15 bushels per acre is more than twice the poor 1954 yields in that province.

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ITALIAN APPLE SITUATION

Supplies of export grades of Italian apples this year are expected to exceed last year by about 15 percent. England, Sweden, Germany, and Switzerland are considered opportune markets this season. Red American varieties, such as Stark Delicious and Winesap, are becoming preferred in many of the European markets over the lighter, more acid Kalterer and Champagne.

APPLE AND PEAR CROP IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES LOWER 1/

The apple crop in specified Northern Hemisphere countries is approximately one-fourth smaller than the 1954 crop. The pear crop is about 5 percent smaller than that of last year.

Apples.--The North American apple crop is slightly larger than last year's crop. The United States crop is smaller in the eastern producing areas, while there is a substantial increase in the Pacific Northwest. The majority of United States exports of fresh apples originates in the Northwest. The Canadian crop is about one-fourth larger than last year, production having increased in all of the important producing provinces of Canada.

The European crop of table apples is considerably below that of last year. Major decreases occurred in the Northern European countries and the Scandinavian countries. The smaller crop is generally due to unfavorable weather during the spring, which caused poor pollination. Quality is reported to be better than last year. (See table, next page.)

Pears.--The North American pear crop is practically the same as that of last year. Reduction in the European crop of pears also occurred in the Northern European countries, and was caused by unfavorable weather during the spring months. (See table, p. 423.)

APPLES: Production in specified Northern Hemisphere countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55

Continent and country	Averages		1952	1953	1954	1955 <u>1/</u>
	1935-39	1945-49				
		- - - 1, 0 0 0		b u s h e l s - - -		
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
Canada.....	14,560	14,818	12,049	11,731	14,500	17,646
Mexico.....	1,231	2,029	2,563	2,558	2,526	*2,500
United States....	127,311	104,279	92,489	92,877	109,512	108,201 <u>2/</u>
Total.....	<u>143,102</u>	<u>121,126</u>	<u>107,101</u>	<u>107,166</u>	<u>126,538</u>	<u>128,347</u>
<u>EUROPE</u>						
Austria:						
Dessert & cooking	7,095	8,008	10,159	7,165	8,267	*9,000
Cider.....	6,291	7,101	4,933	3,858	4,363	*4,500
Belgium-Luxemburg	5,721	9,129	14,298	14,580	11,097	9,900
Denmark.....	2,818	7,303	8,956	6,614	11,804	8,727
Finland.....	1,008	546	459	690	1,148	*700
France:						
Dessert & cooking	10,499	13,630	24,152	21,343	20,160	19,833
Cider.....	153,973	71,444	214,367	153,229	147,008	152,868
Germany, Western	36,116	37,890	62,000	57,100	74,200	35,800
Greece.....	374	1,203	1,727	2,296	2,544	1,745
Italy.....	12,923	19,849	42,713	38,870	38,649	41,336
Netherlands.....	3,631	9,452	18,372	14,348	18,372	9,507
Norway.....	1,080	1,073	2,209	1,475	2,970	*1,800
Spain.....	5,411	5,859	6,641	12,309	12,171	*10,000
Sweden.....	4,770	6,164	6,595	6,899	11,390	6,017
Switzerland.....	16,452	20,300	25,720	15,616	25,261	*15,000
United Kingdom:						
Dessert & cooking	10,597	19,705	23,753	24,943	23,655	16,520
Cider.....	3,427	4,078	4,293	3,453	2,287	1,960
Yugoslavia.....	7,098	7,490	7,542	8,507	4,168	11,138
Total.....	<u>289,284</u>	<u>250,224</u>	<u>478,889</u>	<u>393,295</u>	<u>419,514</u>	<u>356,351</u>
Total (excl. : cider):	125,593	167,601	255,296	232,755	265,856	197,023

* Office estimate.

1/ Preliminary.

2/ September 1 crop report.

PEARS: Production in specified Northern Hemisphere countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55

Continent and country	Averages		1952	1953	1954	1955 <u>1/</u>
	1935-39	1945-49				
			1, 0 0 0	b u s h e l s		
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada.....	569	873	1,303	1,435	1,261	1,416
Mexico.....	331	596	751	750	750	*750
United States.....	28,693	33,108	30,947	29,081	30,434	2/ 30,510
Total.....	29,593	34,577	33,001	31,266	32,445	32,676
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert & cooking..	950	1,380	1,825	1,444	1,675	*1,800
Cider.....	5,416	5,885	6,561	5,646	6,482	*7,000
Belgium-Luxemburg...	2,126	5,204	11,386	11,468	8,295	9,168
Denmark.....	480	855	1,075	672	1,165	800
France:						
Dessert & cooking..	1,760	5,447	7,789	6,768	6,496	7,302
Cider.....	21,776	11,165	33,501	23,946	22,974	23,890
Germany, Western....	11,891	13,370	23,600	19,300	17,300	14,200
Greece.....	878	1,220	1,530	1,720	1,710	1,402
Italy.....	8,482	11,243	17,108	18,184	15,254	13,228
Netherlands.....	1,570	5,582	8,730	5,639	7,231	4,586
Norway.....	174	194	304	171	309	*150
Spain.....	3,057	2,609	3,197	3,377	3,307	*3,200
Sweden.....	1,063	1,102	2,116	1,058	1,940	838
Switzerland.....	7,037	11,728	12,346	11,905	7,937	*9,500
United Kingdom:						
Dessert & cooking..	782	1,492	1,998	1,586	1,577	1,882
Cider.....	237	272	291	215	255	*200
Yugoslavia.....	2,773	3,050	2,694	4,336	2,121	5,181
Total.....	70,452	81,798	136,051	117,435	106,028	104,327
Total (excl. cider)...	43,023	64,476	95,698	87,628	76,317	73,237

* Office estimate.

1/ Preliminary.

2/ September 1 crop report.

LARGER DECIDUOUS FRUIT
CROP IN ARGENTINA

The 1954-55 Argentine deciduous fruit crop is the largest in recent years, and trade sources describe the general quality of the crop as being good. The following table compares the 1954-55 crop with those of recent years.

DECIDUOUS FRUIT: Production in Argentina, 1951-54

Commodity	Unit	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
Apples.....	1,000 bus.	11,243	13,433	12,125	17,947
Peaches.....	1,000 bus.	3,073	6,375	4,281	6,205
Pears.....	1,000 bus.	5,296	4,592	3,162	4,975
Plums.....	Short tons	32,628	40,895	22,156	43,431
Quinces.....	1,000 bus.	556	997	441	694
Apricots.....	Short tons	11,023	14,484	5,842	9,149
Cherries, sweet & sour..	Short tons	1,708	3,097	1,598	2,866

Compiled from official trade sources.

The following table shows a comparison of the fruit exported during the first part of 1955 and that exported during the same period in 1954. The exports during this period were 53 percent larger this year than last.

Argentina Fruit Exports

Commodity	January thru July	
	1954	1955
	- 1,000 boxes -	
Apples.....	1,575	2,156
Pears.....	459	737
Grapes.....	408	602
Peaches.....	-	139
Plums.....	37	159
Other fruit....	24	35
Total.....	2,503	3,828

Brazil receives most of the Argentine fruit exports, with Finland, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States in that order of importance, being the other (overseas) outlets.

An article in the September 9 issue of "The Review of the River Plate," an Argentine publication, cites several problems facing the Argentine fruit exporter. One problem is growing production costs. Another is the unfavorable exchange rate (\$13.3 pesos per dollar). These two problems have practically excluded Argentine fruit exporters from competing with other exporting countries such as Australia, South Africa, and Chile.

Because the ripening seasons of deciduous fruit do not occur at the same time in Brazil and Argentina, trade is desirable between the two countries as it supplements the domestic supplies of each. Even though the exchange rates from the Argentine side are such that they render exports unremunerative for the Argentine producers, the cost of the fruits to the Brazilian consumer is very high because of Brazil's system of exchange auctions. The Brazilians use the proceeds from these exchange auctions to subsidize their fruit exports, making it profitable for their exporters.

As a result, large exportable surpluses, particularly of apples, are being placed in Argentine cold storages. It is estimated that some 5 million boxes of apples are in cold storage now, as compared with 4 million boxes a year ago.

Canned fruit production has remained relatively constant since 1951 as canning facilities have not been expanded. A shortage of foreign exchange is restricting importation of additional canning equipment and cans.

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CUBAN HENEQUEN PRODUCTION LOW IN FIRST HALF OF 1955

Cuban production of henequen in January-June 1955 was only 10.4 million pounds compared with 17.5 million in the corresponding period of the preceding year. Total acreage decreased by 7,353 acres to a total of 24,700 acres on June 30, 1955. Of this total 7,300 acres were harvested compared with 10,894 acres harvested in January-June 1954.

The decrease in total acreage is attributed to the current lower prices for henequen fiber in the principal world markets, and the more favorable price of sisal for use in place of henequen. Wage rates in Cuba are reported to be higher than in many sisal-producing countries, and thus create a price problem for Cuba in competitive markets.
(Cont'd., next page.)

Some of the plantations have reduced acreage because of labor problems and low prices. Other acreages were destroyed early this year by numerous fires of unknown origin. One large plantation was forced to discontinue operations altogether after the loss of 3,300 acres of henequen from fire. The current market is not encouraging for any increase in production during the remainder of the year.

Domestic consumption in January-June 1955 increased to 7.8 million pounds compared with 7.3 million in the corresponding period of 1954, but exports decreased to 6.7 million compared with 9.5 million pounds. Stocks as of June 30, 1955, were 1.7 million pounds, compared with 5.8 million on January 1, 4.9 million on June 30, 1954, and 4.2 million on January 1, 1954.

All exports were shipped to United States ports during both periods. Consumption for the current calendar year is expected to reach more than 15 million pounds. It is reported that the market for Cuban manufactured cordage increased when cordage mills in Mexico closed down.

MEXICAN HENEQUEN PRODUCTION LOW IN FIRST HALF, '55

Mexican production of henequen in 1955 is forecast at about 209.4 million pounds compared with 231.0 million in 1954, and 201.1 million in 1953. The new crop, together with a carryover of 68.9 million pounds on January 1 gave a total supply of 278.3 million for the year, or about 16.4 million less than the supply for 1954.

Acreage harvested in 1955 is forecast at 371,000 acres or more than the 369,000 reported in 1954, and the 363,000 in 1953.

Consumption of henequen fiber in the Yucatan cordage mills has been at a greater rate than in past years. Greater consumption together with a lower production rate this year has tended to reduce stocks until a shortage of fiber has developed. Toward the end of the second quarter of the year cordage mills were forced to curtail activities because of insufficient fiber.

The reorganization of the Yucatan henequen industry was completed in June. The Henequeneros de Yucatan was established in 1938 at the time of the appropriation of lands from the henequen haciendas and was the sole buyer and seller of henequen fiber in Yucatan. After the liquidation of the Henequeneros de Yucatan, the federal government insisted that all fiber grown on ejidos be delivered to the National Bank of Ejido Credit in order to assure a fair price to the grower, even though growers were assured that their fiber could be sold to anyone within the country. Private property owners, who produce about one-fourth of the fiber, are allowed to sell to any buyer.

Exports of henequen from Mexico in 1955 is expected to be greater than in 1954. The following table shows exports of henequen and henequen products for the first half of 1955 compared with 1954.

Mexico: Exports of henequen and henequen products, calendar year 1954 and January-June 1955

Commodity, and country of destination	:1954, calendar year:		:1955, January-June	
	: Million : pounds	: Dollars	: Million : pounds	: Dollars
Henequen fiber, not specified	: 45.5	: 3,027	: 22.2	: 1,367
United States	: 40.8	: 2,676	: 21.9	: 1,352
Colombia	: 2.4	: 191	: .0	: 0
Spain	: 1.4	: 102	: .0	: 0
Other countries	: .9	: 58	: 0.3	: 15
Henequen fiber, stained	: 15.4	: 980	: 18.9	: 1,107
United States	: 15.3	: 975	: 18.9	: 1,106
Other countries	: 0.1	: 5	: 1/	: 1
Other henequen, unmanufactured	: 22.8	: 1,204	: 9.2	: 478
United States	: 21.5	: 1,130	: 8.6	: 433
Other countries	: 1.3	: 74	: 0.6	: 45
Binder twine	: 69.3	: 6,849	: 69.2	: 5,878
United States	: 68.9	: 6,810	: 68.3	: 5,800
Other countries	: 0.4	: 39	: 0.9	: 78
Henequen yarn, twine, cordage, and rope	: 31.2	: 3,193	: 18.2	: 1,665
United States	: 29.4	: 3,005	: 17.3	: 1,574
Other countries	: 1.8	: 188	: 0.9	: 91
Other henequen manufactures	: 3.9	: 421	: 1.9	: 150
United States	: 3.3	: 334	: 1.9	: 149
Other countries	: 0.6	: 87	: 1/	: 1

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from data of the Direccion General de Estadistica.

MEXICAN KENAF PRODUCTION ESTIMATES ARE LOWERED

The estimate of kenaf fiber production in Mexico in 1954 has been revised downward from earlier estimates to about 2.2 million pounds. The lower estimate is the result of loss of fiber due to difficulties in decortication and to fire which destroyed part of the production in Culiacan, Sinaloa. (Cont'd., next page.)

The estimate of area planted in 1955 has now been lowered to approximately 2,100 acres. Of this area about 985 or 990 acres are in the state of Sinaloa, 865 in Vera Cruz, and 245 in Morelos. The large increase in area which had been forecast for one of the growers did not materialize.

The 1955 crop is expected to be about 3.5 million pounds. Harvest is just beginning in the middle of October. Approximately 60 percent of the kenaf production in Mexico is normally used in the manufacture of bags, and the remainder in other products. Exports are expected to be negligible from the current crop.

It is reported that a successful experiment in jute cultivation has been achieved in Sinaloa this year, and that a larger trial area will be planted next year.

MESTA PRODUCTION DECREASES IN INDIA

The First Estimate of Mesta in India for the 1955-56 year, released September 12, estimates the current acreage of mesta at 125,000 acres, or 13.8 percent less than the 145,000 acres of the corresponding adjusted estimate for 1954-55. This first estimate does not include the entire area planted to mesta this year because some late varieties are grown in other states such as Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Hyderabad, and Madhya Bharat.

Complete data are available only for the final estimate. In 1954 the First Estimate of 145,000 acres was raised to 502,000 in the Second Estimate, which was released in March--and further raised to 571,000 acres in the Final Estimate. However, this current estimate does give an indication of whether to expect larger or smaller acreages of mesta this year.

CANADIAN SEED CROP FORECASTS

Smaller crops of Creeping Red fescue and Meadow fescue are forecast by the Canadian Department of Agriculture. A larger crop of Bromegrass is indicated, although not as large as the 10-year average. Production of crested wheatgrass seed is estimated to be substantially above the 1954 crop and average.

	10-year average 1945-54	1954	Preliminary, 1955
	- - - - -	1,000 lbs.-	- - - - -
Creeping Red Fescue.....	2,476	9,800	7,150
Meadow Fescue.....	349	717	450
Bromegrass.....	9,790	7,300	8,180
Crested Wheatgrass.....	921	1,530	2,070

EUROPE PRODUCES
BUMPER RICE CROP

Rice yields being harvested in the European countries this season are above average. Though the total acreage was reduced from that of 1954, Europe is expected to produce the largest rice crop ever harvested.

Italy's rice acreage declined 5 percent. Weather has been favorable, and production is expected to be at least as large as that of last year. Spain planted a postwar record acreage, and the highest yields per acre since World War II are being harvested.

Portugal and France planted record acreages in rice, and favorable growing conditions have resulted in the production of record and near-record crops. Rice acreage and production in Greece are down 17 percent from 1954. Yields per acre in that country are only slightly lower than the record yields of last year.

RICE (rough): Acreage and production in specified countries of Europe, average 1945-49, and annual 1951-1955

Country	Average 1945-49	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 ^{1/}
<hr/>						
Acreage (1,000 acres):						
France.....	7:	40:	54:	47:	47:	51
Greece.....	9:	48:	53:	43:	53:	44
Italy.....	305:	386:	430:	434:	442:	420
Portugal.....	53:	77:	85:	81:	88:	93
Spain.....	129:	155:	160:	169:	169:	175
Total.....	503:	706:	782:	774:	799:	783
<hr/>						
Production (Million lbs.):						
France.....	18.1:	154.8:	199.5:	164.7:	113.1:	187.4
Greece.....	19.5:	123.5:	165.0:	145.0:	200.0:	165.0
Italy.....	1,328.9:	1,750.0:	2,050.0:	2,060.0:	2,000.0:	2,000.0
Portugal.....	159.7:	311.5:	310.1:	309.7:	318.1:	360.0
Spain.....	562.2:	665.0:	714.1:	867.0:	800.0:	900.0
Total.....	2,088.4:	3,004.8:	3,438.7:	3,546.4:	3,431.2:	3,612.4
<hr/>						
Yield per acre (pounds):						
France.....	2,586:	3,870:	3,694:	3,504:	2,406:	3,675
Greece.....	2,167:	2,573:	3,113:	3,372:	3,774:	3,750
Italy.....	4,357:	4,534:	4,767:	4,747:	4,525:	4,762
Portugal.....	3,013:	4,045:	3,648:	3,823:	3,615:	3,871
Spain.....	4,358:	4,290:	4,463:	5,130:	4,734:	5,143
	:	:	:	:	:	:

^{1/} Preliminary.

Compiled from official figures and estimates of Foreign Agricultural Service.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF SUGAR BEETS UP IN 1955

World sugar beet production of 119.3 million short tons for 1955 shows an increase of 5.7 million tons above the final estimate of 1954. The total area of 12.1 million acres is 4 percent above last year. Decreases in North America were more than offset by increases in Europe, including the U.S.S.R. The greatest increase is believed to have been in the U.S.S.R.

In North America the 1955 sugar beet acreage was 14.6 percent, and production 13.2 percent, below the acreage and production, respectively, of 1954.

Western Europe acreage declined by 38,000 acres and production showed a decrease of 1.5 million tons below the 1954 final estimates of 51.7 million tons. Western Europe is the largest producer of beet sugar, but is also an important importer. Preliminary production estimates in 1953 and in 1954 were considerably below the final estimates. If weather and harvesting conditions are favorable during the fall of 1955, final production for this season may be somewhat higher.

Available reports indicate that Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. increased their acreage this year. The weather was unfavorable during the planting season but became more favorable later in the year. This resulted in a forecast of a much larger production--especially in the U.S.S.R. This group of countries produced about as much sugar as Western Europe.

In Asia, Turkey is building new factories and hopes to be self-sufficient in beet sugar production in the near future. Iran and Japan are increasing acreage and production.

Uruguay has been increasing beet production for the past several years, and will probably continue the trend this fall.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Indicated Production of Eggs in Specified Countries, 1955. Foreign Ag. Circ.

Indian Walnut and Almond Production and Trade. Foreign Ag. Circ. FN-11-55

Raisin and Dried Apricot Situation in Iran. Foreign Ag. Circ. FDF-10-55

Apple and Pear Crop in Northern Hemisphere Countries Lower. Foreign Ag. Circ. FDAP-7-55

World Breadgrain Production Large. Foreign Ag. Circ. FG-21-55

Office of Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to postwar boundaries.

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PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS INCREASES IN 1954

For the second consecutive year the per capita consumption of milk and dairy products showed an increase on a whole milk equivalent basis. Of the 15 reporting countries, 9 showed increases in consumption in 1954 and 6 reported declines in per capita use from 1953.

As was the case last year, the increase registered was due primarily to a gain in butter consumption, although some small gains were also made in fluid milk and cheese consumption. Canned milk use dropped slightly and whole milk consumption remained about the same as in 1953.

On the country product basis, Ireland was still the leading consumer of dairy products with a whole milk equivalent consumption rate per capita of 1,425 pounds. New Zealand, the prewar leader, remained in second place. The United States remained in 13th place, although there was a slight gain from 1953.

New Zealand was also the leading consumer of fluid milk and butter during 1954; 527 pounds of milk were consumed in fluid form per capita during the year, and butter consumption amounted to 44.6 pounds per person. The United States was only 6th in fluid milk consumption at 395 pounds per capita, 2 pounds under 1953 use, and 13th in butter consumption at 9.0 pounds per capita.

In cheese consumption the United States was 11th at 7.6 pounds per capita, and Norway was 1st with 19.0 pounds consumed per person during 1954.

Only in the processed milk items was the United States among the leaders in per capita consumption. The United States was first in canned milk use of 21.6 pounds in 1954. In the consumption of dried milk, the United States ranked 4th at 4.4 pounds per capita compared with 6.0 pounds by the Netherlands.

DENMARK'S TRADE IN BUTTER

Denmark's exports of butter in the first half of 1955 were 14 percent below comparable 1954. During the first quarter of 1955, Danish butter was in great demand in secondary markets (those outside the U. K.), but with the seasonal upturn in European butter production in the second quarter this demand fell off. Also, there were some difficulties on the United Kingdom market, where large supplies resulted in a drop in the British wholesale price of Danish butter from \$56.00 to \$47.60 per hundredweight. Even at lower prices, the British market was unable to absorb the Danish supplies, and stocks were built up in British cold storages.

However, as a result of the dry summer in many European countries, the prospects for the export sale of Danish butter are now more favorable. Increased demands since early August from markets other than the United Kingdom, have led to expanded sales or trade agreements with the Republic of Germany, Switzerland, and Finland. The consequent smaller shipments of butter to the United Kingdom market resulted in important price increases for Danish butter in the British market.

Denmark has assumed free trade with the United Kingdom, following expiration of a long-term contract between the two countries on September 30.

BELGIAN DAIRY PRODUCTION DOWN

The hot dry weather in much of Europe in the past several months has caused serious damage to Belgian pastures and has resulted in a decline in milk production. A study made by one of the largest Belgian farm organizations showed that despite an increase in the number of dairy cattle, milk production was running about 3 percent under 1954.

The decrease in milk production has resulted in decreases in butter production. During the week ending September 10, butter prices quoted on various markets averaged 76.3 cents a pound, about 2.35 cents above the Government's directional price. In order to offset the price increase, the Government reduced the minimum import price for Dutch butter from 73.9 cents to 72 cents a pound. After a slight price reduction, prices stabilized at somewhat higher prices because Dutch dealers demanded premiums of about 2 cents a pound. As a result, on September 17, butter was quoted at 76.7 cents a pound, 2.75 cents above the directional price.

In late September the Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs, authorized importation of 2.2 million pounds of butter from Denmark to avert a shortage during the winter. This butter will be held in bonded warehouses until needed on the local market. It is reported that authorization for additional amounts has since been granted.

INDIA URGED TO CONTROL COLORING OF BUTLER SUBSTITUTE

The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in India has passed a resolution urging the Federal Government to enact legislation requiring coloring of vanaspati, a vegetable oil butter substitute, to distinguish it from ghee. Vanaspati has a place on the Indian market because the supply of ghee is inadequate to meet the demand and because the price is less than half that of ghee.

(Cont'd., next page.)

Suggestions in the Legislature have ranged from selling vanaspati in liquid form only, to banning it from the market. Since vanaspati is not considered to have harmful effects on health, the recommendation of coloring was decided upon. The Minister of Planning stated that the government was so anxious to prevent the use of vanaspati as an adulterant that it was prepared to offer a reward of Rs 25,000 (\$5,220) to the discoverer of a suitable and harmless coloring medium. About 90 percent of the samples of butter and curd collected by the New Delhi Municipal health authorities recently were found to be adulterated with vanaspati.

IRELAND'S CHOCOLATE CRUMB INDUSTRY EXPANDS

The Irish chocolate crumb industry, second only to butter manufacture in utilization of creamery milk in Ireland, may utilize over 3 billion pounds of milk in 1955, according to a recent report from Ireland.

Exports, mainstay of the industry, totaled 84.5 million pounds in 1954, a decrease of 25 percent from the previous year due primarily to resumption of large-scale over-all production of chocolate products in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A further decline was expected this year as factory capacity has been expanded in England, and the English milk price of \$2.26 per hundredweight is somewhat less than Irish factories pay. However, Irish exports have risen 3 million pounds in the first half of this year compared to the same period last year. This revival has been attributed to the fact that sugar, the ingredient used in greatest quantity in crumb, is presently cheaper in Ireland--and to the shortage of milk in England. Adverse weather conditions reduced English milk production approximately 237 million pounds in the first 6 months of this year.

Ireland's milk production has also been reduced by weather conditions, but declines in exports of condensery products have enabled the crumb factories to obtain full requirements.

The present advantage enjoyed by the Irish manufacturers may be short-lived. At present, measures are being considered to reorganize Britain's sugar trade and to include a surcharge on crumb and other imports containing sugar. Also, emergency measures adopted by the British because of falling milk production (Foreign Crops and Markets, September 26, 1955) have recently been lifted.

U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS,
AUGUST 1955

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in August 1955 totaled 45.2 million pounds, valued at \$29.9 million, a 66-percent increase over exports in August 1954 of 27.3 million pounds, valued at \$18.0 million. There were increases in exports of flue-cured tobacco, dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Maryland, cigar wrapper and filler, and trimmings, stems, and scrap. Exports in August 1955 decreased for all other types of tobacco.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 39.2 million pounds in August 1955, an increase of 88 percent over exports in August 1954 totaling 20.8 million pounds. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the Republic of Germany in August 1955 increased over 200 percent (3.8 million pounds) compared with 1.0 million pounds in August 1954. There were increased shipments of flue-cured tobacco to Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Luxembourg, Ireland, Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, New Zealand, and Egypt.

Exports of Burley tobacco in August 1955 decreased 23 percent (2.1 million pounds) compared with 2.8 million pounds in August 1954. There were increases in shipments of Burley tobacco, however, to Belgium and Luxembourg and to the Republic of Germany. Exports of Burley tobacco to Japan in August 1955 totaled approximately 900,000 pounds compared with no shipments in 1954. Exports of dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee tobacco increased about 88 percent in August 1955 (1.9 million pounds) compared with 1.0 million pounds for the same month last year. The bulk of the Kentucky-Tennessee shipments were exported to the Netherlands, Italy, and Indonesia. Italy took no Kentucky-Tennessee tobacco for the corresponding month in 1954.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the January-August 1955 period totaled 255.6 million pounds -- an increase of approximately 22 percent over exports of 210.3 million pounds shipped abroad during the same period last year. Exports of flue-cured tobacco for the first 8 months of 1955 totaled 202.1 million pounds, an increase of 29 percent over the 156.7 million pounds exported during the January-August 1954 period. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the United Kingdom for the January-August 1955 period totaled 55.3 million pounds compared with 28.5 million pounds for the same period last year. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the Republic of Germany for the same period totaled 35.6 million pounds compared with 27.9 million pounds for the January-August 1954 period. There were increases in exports of dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Green River, One Sucker, Black Fat, and Cigar Wrapper.

Exports of tobacco products, valued at \$4.8 million, were 14 percent higher in August 1955 than for the same month last year. There were increases in exports of cigars and cheroots, cigarettes, and smoking tobacco in packages and bulk. Exports of chewing tobacco and snuff decreased. (See tables, next page. (Text continues, p. 437.)

United States: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco,
August 1955 and January-August 1955, with comparisons
(Export Weight)

Type	August		Percent Change	January-August		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds		1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	
Flue-cured.....	20,808	39,193	+ 88.4	156,698	202,090	+ 29.0
Burley.....	2,754	2,116	- 23.2	22,590	20,427	- 9.6
Virginia Firecured...	451	114	- 74.7	2,441	1,709	- 30.0
Dark-fired Ky-Tenn...	1,056	1,980	+ 87.5	14,626	14,726	+ 0.7
Maryland.....	296	543	+ 83.4	4,578	4,079	- 10.9
Green River.....	480	3	- 99.4	1,370	1,748	+ 27.6
One Sucker.....	333	-	-	693	1,680	+142.4
Black Fat.....	386	356	- 7.8	2,641	3,532	+ 33.7
Cigar wrapper.....	351	365	+ 4.0	2,021	2,431	+ 20.3
Cigar binder.....	180	143	- 20.6	950	762	- 19.8
Cigar filler.....	-	4	-	159	12	- 92.5
Other.....	172	419	+143.6	1,527	2,384	+ 56.1
Total.....	27,267	45,236	+ 65.9	210,294	255,580	+ 21.5
Declared Value (million dollars)	18.0	29.9	+ 66.1	134.3	164.5	+ 22.5

Compiled in Foreign Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

United States: Exports of tobacco products, August 1955,
with comparisons

Product	August		Percent Change	January-August		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
Cigars and Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	409	550	+ 34.5	5,475	3,594	- 34.4
Cigarettes (million pieces)	1,006	1,080	+ 7.4	10,053	9,999	- 0.5
Chewing Tobacco & Snuff (1,000 pounds)	242	132	- 45.5	1,168	885	- 24.2
Smoking Tobacco in Pkgs. (1,000 pounds)	34	48	+ 41.2	354	374	+ 5.6
Smoking Tobacco in Bulk (1,000 pounds)	300	685	+128.3	2,682	4,046	+ 50.9
Declared Value (million dollars)	4.2	4.8	+ 14.3	40.6	41.9	+ 3.2

Compiled in Foreign Ag. Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Export valuation of tobacco products, at \$41.9 million, was only 3 percent higher for the January-August 1955 period over the same period last year. There were decreases in exports of all products for this period with the exception of smoking tobacco in packages and bulk.

FRANCO-YUGOSLAV TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES TOBACCO

A commercial trade agreement between France and Yugoslavia was signed on July 27, 1955, for the period July 1, 1955, to June 30, 1956. The agreement includes 10.4 million pounds of tobacco as one of the items to be exported from Yugoslavia in exchange for French industrial goods. About 1.1 million pounds of the total will be shipped to French North Africa. The French Tobacco Monopoly's imports of Yugoslav leaf during the last 2 years amounted to 6.0 million pounds annually.

The agreement also establishes procedure for set-aside of 6.5 percent of Yugoslav export proceeds to finance transfer of French financial claims due to holders of prewar bonds and to those entitled to nationalization indemnities.

BRAZIL INCREASES EXPORT BONUSES FOR TOBACCO

The Superintendency of Money and Credit on July 26, 1955, transferred leaf tobacco from export category 2 to category 3, thereby increasing the cruzeiro bonus from 18.70 to 24.70 cruzeiros to the dollar for payments made in United States dollars, pounds sterling, and German marks; and from 17.19 to 22.95 cruzeiros to the dollar for payments in all other currencies.

Currently, the increase in the export bonus for leaf tobacco tends to put it in a more competitive position in international markets. During the past, however, the Brazilian Government has been periodically forced into effective devaluations of the export cruzeiro by raising bonuses to exporters in order to move tobacco and other goods abroad as the result of increased domestic costs, which continue to rise due to price inflation.

GREEK TOBACCO CROP AT RECORD HIGH

The 1955 tobacco crop in Greece is now placed at 198.4 million pounds, about 13 percent higher than previously estimated and one-third larger than last year's harvest of 148.7 million pounds. This estimate is also well above the previous record crop of 178.5 million pounds harvested in 1936.

The leaf produced this year is reported to be generally lower in quality than last year's crop as a result of unusually heavy rainfall in the producing areas this season.

BELGIAN TOBACCO CROP
SMALLEST ON RECORD

The 1955 tobacco acreage in Belgium was 2,870 acres, according to data released by the Belgian National Statistical Institute following the annual census of agriculture. Average yields per acre this year are estimated to be about equal to last year's average, and total production is placed at approximately 6 million pounds. Both acreage and production are one-third below the 1954 level, and this year's harvest is reported to be the smallest tobacco crop on record.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
PURCHASES RHODESIAN LEAF

The recently negotiated trade agreement between the Central African Federation and the Union of South Africa provides for duty-free entry of 10 million pounds of Rhodesian flue-cured tobacco into the Union by December 31, 1955. The 5-year agreement signed June 28 that became effective July 1 states that tobacco admitted into the Union this year shall be "flue-cured Virginia-type leaf tobacco grown in the Federation, consisting of not more than 5 million pounds in weight of such tobacco grown in the 1954-55 season and 5 million pounds in weight grown in previous seasons."

The agreement also provides that there shall be admitted into the Union duty-free "after 31st December, 1955, in every calendar year, a quantity of such tobacco not less than 2 million pounds in weight and not exceeding such greater quantity as may, in respect of each calendar year, be determined by the Minister of Agriculture of the Union after consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Federation."

Tobacco production in the Union of South Africa has declined rather sharply in recent years from a total of 53.4 million pounds harvested in 1951 to a harvest of about 32.2 million pounds in 1955. While unfavorable weather has been a factor, much of the decline in flue-cured production has been due to a switch from Amarelo to Orinoco types, the latter being lower-yielding and more difficult to grow, although it is more suitable both for domestic use and export trade. Domestic consumption in the past 3 or 4 years has exceeded output, and stocks have dropped well below normal inventories. Imports of leaf tobacco from the Rhodesias, which averaged 4.1 million pounds in the 1947-51 period, declined steadily since that time and totaled less than 1.4 million pounds in 1954.

In order to replenish its stocks, the Union negotiated the previously mentioned agreement with the Central African Federation, which permits the importation of the 10 million pounds of leaf this year. Reports from the Salisbury auction market indicate that through September 8 the Union had purchased a total of 5.8 million pounds of flue-cured from this season's crop. This is more of this year's crop than was specified in the agreement, and it is reported that the Union has requested the privilege of purchasing 2.25 million pounds this year in addition to the 5 million authorized.
(Cont'd., next page.)

It is expected that purchases in the next 4 years will be approximately 3 million pounds annually, with 80 percent of the leaf to be purchased from Southern Rhodesia, about 10 percent from North Western Rhodesia, and 10 percent from North Eastern Rhodesia.

PAKISTANI TOBACCO INTERESTS OBJECT TO INDIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

Reports from Pakistan indicate that flue-cured tobacco producers and dealers have demanded that the importation of Indian leaf tobacco be prohibited in the interest of protecting and developing the domestic tobacco industry. The Mardan Tobacco Dealers Association has released a statement opposing the recently signed trade agreement between Pakistan and India, which grants a duty preference to India tobacco. The agreement is to be effective for one year beginning September 1, 1955.

The tobacco received from India is comparable in kind and quality to that produced in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, and the tobacco interests there feel that substantial imports from India would have a detrimental effect on the local industry by depressing the price and retarding production, and would be an unnecessary use of the limited foreign exchange available to the country.

A delegation representing the tobacco industry has been sent to Karachi to explain the plight of the local tobacco trade and to endeavor to get the Government of Pakistan to change its tobacco import policy.

U.S. FOOD EXHIBIT HELD IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

The first United States government-sponsored food exhibit ever held abroad opened October 1 at the International Food Fair in Cologne, Germany.

The main feature of the United States exhibit was a collection of 16 private sales promotion displays of United States firms and organizations seeking to expand their foreign markets for agricultural products. Another important feature was a continuous program of motion pictures on United States food merchandising, processing, and production techniques in a theater incorporated as a part of this country's over-all exhibit.

Located in the Hall of Nations, the United States presentation is one of 18 national exhibits in the biennial Cologne exposition which was open October 1 through 9. About 1,400 private exhibits were on display.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL SALES

Wool prices in the Australian auctions have shown a firm tendency in recent weeks. This is indicated in sales for the week ending September 23, 1955 (see table below.)

During the week ending September 23, 1955, wool sales were held in Adelaide (47,500 bales), Albury (22,000 bales) and New Castle (42,000 bales). Prices held firm at the levels that prevailed at the end of the previous weeks' sales in Melbourne and Sydney. In most centers there was an especially keen demand for good style merino fleeces, and prices for these were up $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent. However, prices paid for the various grades ranged from 20 to 40 percent below prices paid a year earlier.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES: Average raw wool costs, clean basis on
Australian auction floors, by quality classifications
(Current prices with comparisons)

Type and Grade	Week Ended			
	9-10-55	9-16-55	9-23-55	9-24-54
	U.S. dollars per pound			
<u>Combing Wools</u>				
Good 70's.....	<u>1/</u> 1.30	<u>1/</u> 1.28	<u>1/</u> 1.28	<u>1/</u> 1.62
Average 70's.....	1.22	1.19	1.19	1.56
Good 64's.....	<u>1/</u> 1.12	1.08	1.08	1.47
Average 64's.....	1.08	1.04	1.04	1.40
Good 60's.....	<u>1/</u> 1.02	.98	.98	1.39
Average 60's.....	.96	.93	.94	1.30
Good 58's.....	<u>1/</u> .95	.91	.91	1.26
Average 58's.....	<u>1/</u> .92	.89	.89	-
Good 56's.....	<u>1/</u> .91	.88	.89	1.18
Average 56's.....	<u>1/</u> .89	.83	.84	-
Good 50's.....	<u>1/</u> .84	.80	.80	.99
Average 50's.....	.82	.78	.78	-
<u>Carding Wools</u>				
Merino.....	.72	.68	.67	.83
Comeback.....	<u>1/</u> .65	.63	.63	.77
Fine Crossbred.....	<u>1/</u> .63	.62	.63	.75
Medium Crossbred.....	<u>1/</u> .63	.62	.62	.74

1/ Quotations nominal.

Source: Wool Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau.

DOMINICAN INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

The International Livestock Exposition in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, will begin approximately January 5, 1956 and end February 27, 1956. Plans are to hold several competitive shows in which cattle from Cuba as well as several Central American countries will participate. Dr. Anibal Flores B., Technical Director, at Ciudad Trujillo, has requested the United States Department of Agriculture to inform livestock associations in this country of the fair. American cattlemen are invited to participate, and if interested in details should write directly to Dr. Flores.

LARD SITUATION IN CHILE

Lard production in Chile is estimated at 39.6 million pounds for calendar year 1954. Annual consumption has fluctuated between 40 and 55 million pounds, depending on price. The Ministry of Economy estimates a potential demand of 66 million pounds per year, provided the price is comparable to that for vegetable oil. At present Argentina, as a result of a trade agreement with Chile, dominates the market. There are no tariff barriers or exchange regulations for Argentine lard as there are for U. S. and other lards.

PANAMA TO EXPORT CATTLE

The Republic of Panama is in position to export 5,000 head of cattle this year, according to an announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industries. A meeting was held for purposes of ascertaining: (1) The surplus cattle population in Panama; (2) possibility of exportations; and (3) sanitary measures that must be adopted. Official data fixed animal population as of June 1954 at 578,000 head of cattle, 225,600 hogs, and 2,059,800 chickens.

Eleven scholarships to study agriculture in the United States, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, and Puerto Rico have been granted by the Servicio Interamericano de Cooperacion Agricola. This brings to 25 the number of scholarships granted during the last 3 years.

DENMARK ANNOUNCES FURTHER DOLLAR LIBERALIZATION

The Danish Board of Supply published on September 30 a list of commodities that have been added to the dollar-free list--the list of goods imported from the dollar area for which no import licenses are required. The complete list has not yet been received but is stated to include soybeans, oil cakes, rice, and undressed hides and skins. The effective date of this new liberalization will probably be November 1. In the meantime, licenses will be issued freely for the commodities that are being liberalized.

WORLD BARLEY AND OATS PRODUCTION LARGE

World production of barley and oats in 1955 will slightly exceed the high 1954 total, according to preliminary estimates of the Foreign Agricultural Service. Both barley and oats outturns will be the largest of the postwar period if present prospects materialize. Sharp increases in these crops in North America offset reductions in some other areas, especially an indicated reduction in the Soviet Union.

Substantial quantities of these grains are available for export from North America as a result of the high level of carryover stocks, as well as production in both Canada and United States. At the same time well-above-average crops in Western Europe may reduce import requirements for that area, which is traditionally the largest foreign market for these grains. Larger barley crops in some of the minor exporting countries of Asia may reduce that area's requirements from other sources.

North America has an all-time record supply of barley as a result of record supplies in the United States and a near-record supply in Canada. Canada's production of 258 million bushels offset a marked reduction in carryover stocks. The bumper crop is of exceptionally good quality as a result of good growing conditions during the summer and ideal September weather for harvesting. The United States crop of 367 million bushels is only slightly above last year's large harvest but carryover stocks are at a new record, bringing total domestic supplies to an all-time high of 517 million bushels at the beginning of the current season.

Oats stocks in the United States are also the largest of record and with the production of 1,636 million bushels, a record domestic supply of 1,951 million bushels was estimated as of July 1. Canada's supply of oats at the beginning of the current season was 491 million bushels. Though well above average, this is a somewhat smaller supply than for a number of recent years.

Western Europe's production of these grains in 1955 is estimated to be about the same as the comparatively large 1954 crop. Barley production of 632 million bushels is sharply above average because of expanded acreage and larger yields in a number of important producing countries. Acreage expansion is especially marked in France and the United Kingdom, the largest producers of the area. France reports 3.3 million acres for the current season compared with a prewar average of 1.9 million. A similar trend in the United Kingdom resulted in an acreage of 2.3 million acres in 1955, contrasting with 0.9 million in 1935-39. Denmark, another leading producer, has expanded from 0.9 million acres in the prewar period to 1.5 million this season. Yields in these countries are also somewhat higher as a result of improved seed and cultural practices as well as favorable growing conditions.

Production of oats in Western Europe, estimated at a billion bushels, is not up to the prewar level, because of a reduction of about 5 million acres in the area seeded to oats in this area. Shifts from oats to other grains have been especially sizable in France, the German Republic, Sweden, Denmark, and Spain. As was the case for barley, yields of oats were large this season in most important producing countries.

Conditions have been favorable for grain crops in Eastern Europe this season and outturns of barley and oats have been reported larger than the small 1954 harvests. Production is, however, somewhat below the prewar level, especially for oats. That crop, tentatively placed at 345 million bushels this year, is 27 percent less than the 1935-49 average. Some shift from the acreage in oats appears to have taken place in the leading producing countries of the area. A moderate reduction in barley acreage is also estimated for this area. The current crop, estimated at about 213 million bushels, though larger than the small 1954 harvest, is 16 percent below the prewar average. Increases over last year's small production were general throughout the area.

Weather conditions in the Soviet Union were favorable during the growing season in many important regions of the European area, which suffered from drought last year. Despite better yields of barley and oats, production of these grains decreased substantially from the 1954 level because of a major shift to corn.

Barley production in Asia is estimated to be slightly larger than in 1954, largely because of Turkey's substantial recovery from last year's outturn. Though not back to the high level of 1953, the current estimate of 147 million bushels for that country is a third larger than in 1954. Some increase in acreage is reported and yields are well above the low 1954 yields. The increase in Turkey's crop is partly offset by declines in a number of other Asiatic countries. The decrease is especially marked in Syria, where present reports indicate a virtual crop failure. Production of oats in Asia is estimated at 105 million bushels. This is slightly less than the 1954 outturn of 110 million bushels but is sharply above the 1945-59 average.

Present estimates place the total barley production in Africa at 135 million bushels. Though above average, this would be below the level of recent years, largely because of a reduced outturn in French Morocco, the leading barley producer of that continent. Smaller acreage and somewhat smaller yields than in 1954 account for the sharp drop from the high level reported for that year. The total crop of oats in Africa is placed at 21 million bushels, very little change from the 1954 harvest.

It is too early in the season for reliable indications of production in Southern Hemisphere countries. The present outlook for Argentina, the principal producer in South America, is less favorable than in 1954. Growth of winter grains has been retarded by cold weather. A larger than usual percentage of grain acreage, especially oats, is being diverted to grazing, according to recent reports. This is attributed to increased cattle numbers with relatively more advantageous prices for meat products. (See tables, next four pages. Text cont'd., p. 448.)

BARLEY: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-55 $\frac{\text{L}}{\text{A}}$

Continent and country	Acreage 2/			Yield per acre 2/			Production						
	Average			Average			Average						
	1935-39	1945-49	1953	1935-39	1945-49	1953	1935-39	1945-49	1953				
NORTH AMERICA													
Canada	4,291	6,717	8,911	9,912	21.5	29.4	22.3	26.0	88,882	144,688	262,065	175,509	258,025
Mexico	374	457	585	593	10.6	13.0	13.2	11.6	3,960	6,032	7,580	7,810	6,890
United States	10,817	10,713	8,586	12,994	22.1	25.5	28.5	27.4	238,622	273,206	242,544	370,126	386,552
Estimated total 5/	15,480	17,890	18,080	22,440	-	-	-	-	331,000	424,000	512,000	553,000	651,000
EUROPE													
Austria	401	293	373	372	32.6	40.4	38.7	36.4	13,087	7,127	15,060	14,380	14,010
Belgium 6/	74	198	228	185	48.2	58.6	57.0	60.3	3,570	9,388	13,360	10,550	12,000
Denmark	946	1,079	1,537	1,495	55.9	59.6	62.8	63.0	52,683	64,345	100,170	93,920	94,060
Finland	280	440	435	460	28.2	34.1	31.7	27.4	7,900	8,500	15,000	13,800	12,800
France	1,897	2,019	2,973	3,041	27.9	34.6	38.1	36.8	53,004	52,500	102,830	115,960	119,820
German Republic	17/ 2,005	1,288	1,947	1,812	39.4	48.9	48.7	48.3	79,000	43,740	95,160	88,170	93,880
Greece	525	453	530	516	17.8	22.4	20.6	21.7	9,365	7,359	11,870	10,620	11,140
Ireland	118	147	188	163	45.9	55.9	50.1	50.0	5,413	6,739	10,500	8,170	10,500
Italy	475	603	618	612	20.9	23.2	20.8	21.8	9,950	9,467	14,360	12,745	13,172
Netherlands	107	139	255	156	51.4	56.3	61.2	63.3	5,934	7,147	14,350	9,540	10,885
Norway	143	99	201	224	38.2	40.5	45.9	44.6	5,467	4,014	9,500	10,280	11,020
Portugal	322	390	395	395	12.8	14.4	14.1	13.7	3,835	3,835	5,610	5,580	5,400
Spain	4,549	3,979	3,964	3,980	21.0	18.4	24.2	16.3	8/ 97,059	83,528	73,030	96,450	65,000
Sweden	252	226	467	411	39.5	36.5	40.2	35.6	9,951	8,252	21,520	16,530	18,730
Switzerland	13	66	61	51	33.1	47.7	55.5	50.0	9,951	8,252	21,520	2,830	2,600
United Kingdom	934	2,120	2,226	2,063	39.2	52.9	50.8	51.9	36,596	91,895	117,650	104,720	119,000
Yugoslavia	1,045	-	-	-	18.0	-	-	-	18,800	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/	14,100	14,370	17,430	16,920	-	-	-	-	413,000	428,000	643,000	632,000	632,000
Other Europe, estimated total 9/	9,210	7,830	8,220	8,270	-	-	-	-	253,000	172,000	212,000	198,000	213,000
All Europe, estimated total 5/	23,310	22,200	25,650	25,190	-	-	-	-	666,000	600,000	855,000	830,000	845,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	26,600	19,800	-	-	16.0	-	-	-	425,000	272,000	-	-	-

ASIA														
Iran	1,545:	1,687	1,977	1,975	-	7/	23.1	22.0	19.1	19.2	7/	35,728	37,157	37,700:
Iraq	1,932:	1,901	2,400	-	-	7/	12.2	15.5	16.7	-	-	23,635	29,502	40,000:
Lebanon	10/	52	30	28	28	10/	10/	22.4	23.0	26.4	10/	1,165	1,165	690:
Syria	793:	867	930	1,483	-	10/	19.4	12.8	14.8	13.9	-	10/	11,135	13,800:
Turkey	4,592:	4,235	6,022	6,175	6,301	7/	20.9	16.2	27.8	17.9	-	96,129	68,675	167,180:
China	16,000:	15,521	-	-	-	7/	21.7	20.8	-	-	-	7/	34,700	322,244:
Manchuria	353:	250	-	-	-	7/	18.3	22.2	-	-	-	7/	6,462	5,550:
India 11/	5,793:	6,900	8,021	8,720	8,000	7/	15.6	15.4	16.8	15.5	-	90,253	106,255	134,500:
Pakistan 11/	486:	547	568	613	602	7/	14.5	12.7	9.2	11.9	-	7/	7,922	5,230:
Japan	1,888:	2,137	2,261	2,500	2,455	7/	38.7	26.2	38.4	42.6	-	73,113	56,046	86,900:
Korea	2,671:	-	-	-	-	-	18.6	-	-	-	-	49,656	-	-
Estimated total 5/	37,860:	37,720	42,040	43,240	42,960	-	-	-	-	-	-	768,000	692,000	825,000:
AFRICA														
Algeria	3,051:	2,227	3,067	3,388	3,300	-	10.9	12.6	10.8	12.9	-	33,132	28,120	33,200:
Egypt	276:	260	120	127	141	-	38.8	33.1	39.6	42.0	-	10,697	8,605	4,750:
French Morocco	4,448:	3,728	4,880	5,179	4,702	-	12.0	12.7	17.0	18.0	-	53,279	47,320	82,550:
Tunisia	1,132:	1,257	1,420	1,550	-	-	7.7	6.3	5.8	5.0	-	9,048	7,901	8,270:
Union of South Africa	86:	103	-	-	-	7/	18.1	15.7	-	-	-	1,555	1,617	2,200:
Estimated total 5/	10,310:	8,980	11,600	12,330	11,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	121,000	107,000	155,000:
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina	1,286:	1,693	1,614	1,942	-	-	17.6	21.0	25.4	26.3	-	22,586	35,576	41,060:
Chile	18:	132	117	140	-	-	27.4	30.5	29.9	29.3	-	5,041	4,030	3,500:
Peru	300:	335	470	485	494	-	18.3	20.0	22.3	22.1	-	5,500	6,716	10,500:
Uruguay	44:	65	105	118	-	-	14.8	13.0	17.6	15.4	-	649	846	1,350:
Estimated total 5/	2,140:	2,660	2,900	3,240	3,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	53,000	66,000:
OCEANIA														
Australia	642:	868	1,903	1,640	-	-	18.0	19.4	23.8	15.6	-	11,651	16,354	42,990:
New Zealand	24:	56	68	43	-	-	39.7	32.7	51.0	48.8	-	952	2,223	3,470:
Total	672:	924	1,871	1,683	1,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,603	19,077	46,460:
Estimated world total 5/	116,370:	110,170	122,640	128,620	124,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,362,000	2,170,000	2,820,000:

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1955 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which will begin late in 1955 and end early in 1956. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Preliminary estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, preliminary forecasts based largely on acreage and weather conditions to date. 5/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production, are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 6/ Data for individual years shown are not strictly comparable with averages shown since recent estimates exclude data for farms of less than 2.5 acres. 7/ Average of less than 5 years. 8/ Figure for 1955 only. 9/ Comprises Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania. 10/ Estimates for Syria and Lebanon not shown separately during this period. 11/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable since figures for 1953-55 include allowances for non-reporting areas, which were excluded from earlier figures shown, but were included in estimated total for Asia.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

OATS: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-55 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/			Yield per acre 2/			Production		
	Average			Average			Average		
	1935-39	1945-49	1953	1935-39	1945-49	1953	1935-39	1945-49	1953
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada 2/	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mexico	13,246	12,021	9,830	10,161	11,178	25.5	28.4	41.4	36.7
United States	29	108	213	222	185	16.0	19.9	16.4	16.8
Estimated total 5/	49,040	52,310	49,260	52,540	53,370	-	-	-	-
EUROPE									
Austria	686	534	544	519	495	41.9	32.6	52.9	43.0
Belgium 7/	548	518	392	369	361	74.7	73.1	75.6	80.9
Denmark	932	822	601	617	680	75.3	82.5	94.3	84.2
Finland	1,030	931	1,240	1,260	1,260	43.7	37.9	53.2	39.3
France	8,089	6,110	5,608	5,322	5,139	40.7	36.3	45.0	47.5
German Republic	3,370	2,392	2,506	2,329	2,360	57.7	50.0	67.5	72.6
Greece	350	312	368	354	361	24.3	19.4	31.3	29.8
Ireland	571	819	600	560	580	68.8	58.7	67.5	69.8
Italy	1,062	1,138	1,128	1,117	1,081	35.9	26.8	36.8	34.7
Luxembourg	65	54	53	47	-	44.8	43.9	51.7	49.6
Netherlands	360	378	387	353	420	71.6	63.8	90.7	89.3
Norway	212	195	179	173	167	61.0	57.1	68.9	64.0
Portugal	865	914	770	770	775	12.0	9.0	11.8	6.7
Spain	1,848	1,527	1,527	1,495	1,507	9/ 21.3	22.0	20.0	15.9
Sweden	1,641	1,300	1,203	1,172	1,260	53.1	44.6	54.1	39.6
Switzerland	28	86	74	62	62	56.9	64.7	81.9	78.2
United Kingdom	2,430	3,443	2,840	2,588	2,592	57.0	59.5	69.5	69.3
Yugoslavia	893	-	-	-	-	24.5	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/	24,980	22,960	21,000	19,980	20,040	-	-	-	-
Other Europe, estimated									
total 10/	11,110	9,290	9,480	9,550	9,580	-	-	-	-
Estimated total, all Europe 5/	36,090	32,250	30,480	29,530	29,620	-	-	-	-
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	49,500	35,100	-	-	-	23.5	20.5	-	-

The outlook for these grains in Australia is reported excellent in most areas. Barley acreage is expected to be well above the 1954 area. No definite indication of the size of the acreage in oats is yet available, but a slight increase is expected, in view of the excellent conditions at seeding time and the desire of stockmen to keep adequate feed reserves.

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U. S. COTTON EXPORTS LOW IN AUGUST

Exports of cotton from the United States in August 1955 amounted to 63,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (60,000 running bales), representing a gain of 3 percent over the 61,000 bales exported in July, but 135,000 bales or 68 percent less than exports in August 1954.

Japan and Canada were the principal destinations in the month under review, with exports of 16,000 and 14,000 bales, respectively, to those countries. Exports to all major foreign markets were considerably lower than in August a year ago.

The decline in cotton exports from the United States in 1955 may be attributed mainly to the fact that foreign cotton is being offered on export markets at prices 2 to 5 cents a pound lower than comparable qualities of United States cotton. Record crops are now being harvested in most foreign producing countries and will be entering export markets in the remainder of the current season. (See table, opposite page.)

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FIRST OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF EGYPT'S 1955-56 COTTON CROP

The first official estimate of Egypt's 1955-56 cotton crop places production at 1,806,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 13 percent higher than the 1954-55 crop of 1,598,000 bales. Comparison of the Government's first estimate of the current crop with last season's final cutturn is as follows:

	: Final estimate	: First estimate
	: 1954-55	: 1955-56
	: (thousand bales of 500 pounds gross)	
Karnak.....	485	604
Menoufi.....	44	64
Giza 30/Dendera.....	408	306
Ashmouni.....	624	791
Subtotal	1,561	1,765
Scarto	37	41
Total	1,598	1,806

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination, averages
1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1953 and 1954
August 1954 and 1955

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				August	
	Averages		1953	1954		
	1935-39	1945-49			1954	1955
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria.....	0	1/ 36	42	15	1	1
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	169	131	68	66	5	1
Czechoslovakia.....	65	57	0	0	0	0
Denmark.....	33	14	23	21	1	0
Finland.....	35	21	10	13	0	0
France.....	662	575	475	416	14	3
Germany.....	511	340	389	350	20	8
Italy.....	442	489	269	249	7	2
Netherlands.....	107	131	104	95	4	2/
Norway.....	17	7	14	12	2/	0
Poland and Danzig.....	180	69	0	0	0	0
Portugal.....	36	2/	0	11	0	0
Spain.....	108	69	167	197	1	0
Sweden.....	115	12	43	51	1	0
Switzerland.....	11	26	24	37	3	2/
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	422	421	22	8
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	40	103	3	1
Other Europe.....	31	3/ 33	10	9	1	0
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,545	2,100	2,066	83	24
Canada.....	301	275	237	307	24	14
Chile.....	9	20	27	10	1	0
Colombia.....	20	24	7	2	2/	0
Cuba.....	11	16	20	19	3	2/
India.....	52	86	161	61	2	2/
China.....	117	401	0	0	0	0
French Indochina.....	22	6	16	0	0	0
Indonesia.....	2/	5	22	27	1	2
Japan.....	1,142	585	1,005	678	40	16
Korea, Republic of.....	4/	5/ 48	96	170	20	0
Taiwan (Formosa).....	4/	1	110	120	15	2
Australia.....	9	7	45	52	3	1
Other countries.....	21	46	6/ 68	7/ 73	6	4
Total 500 lb. Bales...	5,589	4,065	3,914	3,585	198	63
Total Running Bales...	5,300	3,917	3,761	3,447	190	60

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries." 5/ 3-year average. 6/ Israel 12, Ethiopia 11. 7/ Israel 20, French Morocco 11.

COTTON EXPORTS TO ECUADOR
APPROVED UNDER P. L. 480 AGREEMENT

Approximately 5,000 bales of cotton (500 pounds gross) will be exported to Ecuador in the current marketing year under terms of an agreement between the United States and Ecuador. The agreement provides for the sale for sucres (Ecuadoran currency) of \$1.0 million (including ocean transportation costs) of United States cotton.

Sales under this program will be made by private U. S. traders. Details of the purchase authorizations to be issued for cotton, as well as for the other commodities included in the agreement, will be contained in future announcements.

The agreement was made under Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Public Law 480, 83rd Congress).

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CUBAN VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY
REQUESTS TAX EXEMPTION

The Cuban Official Gazette of August 31, 1955, published a petition for tax exemption for all Cuban vegetable oil producers under provisions of Decree-Law No. 1038 of August 15, 1953. A number of industries have received exemptions from import duties and internal taxes as "new industries" under terms of this decree. If the vegetable oil industry succeeds in obtaining such exemptions, this probably will result in some reduction in imports of lard and vegetable oils, as it then would be in a position to import peanuts and other oilseeds duty free for crushing locally.

The petitioner states that, without tax exemption, the industry is unable to compete with imported hog lard and vegetable oils.

Imports into Cuba in 1954 of the various edible and inedible vegetable and animal fats and oils, according to cargo manifests, were as follows in short tons:

<u>Edible</u>		<u>Inedible</u>	
Olive oil	8,300	Cottonseed oil	930
Cottonseed oil	1,874	Coconut oil	3,247
Coconut oil	563	Olive oil	37
Peanut oil	8	Peanut oil	61
Soybean oil	1,461	Soybean oil	1,389
Vegetable shortening	40	Tallow	16,037
Tallow	808		
Hog lard	80,456		

All imports, except edible olive oil, came from the United States. Spain supplied about 90 percent of the olive oil imports and France most of the remainder.

URUGUAY'S FLAXSEED CROP
ESTIMATE REVISED UPWARD

Uruguay's 1954-55 flaxseed crop is now placed at 2,474,740 bushels from 239,700 acres, according to the second official production estimate and the third official area estimate recently released. The production estimate is slightly larger than the estimate published in Foreign Crops and Markets of July 4, 1955. This revised estimate is not expected to differ greatly from the final estimate to be released several weeks hence.

GREECE REVISES EXPORT
TAX ON OLIVE OIL

A joint decision by Greece's Ministers of Coordination, Finance, and Commerce imposed the following export taxes on the f.o.b. value in foreign exchange of export shipments of olive oil, effective June 28, 1955:

1. Three drachmas (10 U.S. cents) per dollar value, or the equivalent in other currencies, on shipments of virgin, wholly refined or blended olive oil of less than one degree acidity when exported in steel drums.
2. Four drachmas (13 cents) per dollar or the equivalent in other currencies on shipments of neutralized (but not refined) oil packed in steel drums.
3. Five drachmas (17 cents) per dollar or the equivalent in other currencies on shipments of ordinary quality olive oil of over one degree acidity packed in steel drums.

No export tax will be payable in the following cases:

1. On exports of virgin or wholly refined olive oil of less than one degree acidity packed in lithographed containers.
2. On exports of blended olive oil of less than one degree acidity packed in lithographed containers.
3. On exports of blended olive oil of not more than 2.5 degrees of acidity packed in lithographed containers of up to 5 kilograms (11.0 pounds).

Under an earlier decision (which is rescinded) the export tax on low-acidity virgin, refined, and blended olive oil had been cancelled, leaving only high acidity virgin and neutralized oil subject to a tax of three drachmas per dollar of export value. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of June 20, 1955.)

The export tax on low-acidity virgin and processed olive oil packed in steel drums was reinstituted for the purpose of containing olive oil prices in the domestic market by reducing the effective demand for export through higher delivered cost.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC IN SOYBEANS,
PEANUTS UP IN FIRST HALF 1955

The northbound movement of soybeans and peanuts, largely Chinese, through the Suez Canal during January-June 1955 were 360,000 short tons (12 million bushels) and 244,000 tons, respectively. These data represent increases of nearly one-fourth for each of both commodities from first half shipments in 1954. Furthermore, the quantity of soybeans to pass through the Canal in the first 6 months of this year was larger than the total annual traffic in soybeans in each of 3 preceding years 1952-54. However, soybean shipments in the second half of the year in previous years have been sharply below the volume in the first half. (See table below. Text cont'd., next page.)

SUEZ CANAL: Northbound movement of oilseeds and vegetable oils,
January-June 1955 with comparisons

(1,000 short tons gross weight 1/)

Commodity	Average	1953	1954	January-June	
	:1933-37			1954	:1955 2/
	:	:	:	:	:
<u>Oilseeds:</u>	:	:	:	:	:
Soybeans.....	1,237	353	352	290	360
Copra.....	786	660	844	377	325
Peanuts.....	999	229	250	197	244
Cottonseed.....	146	197	153	95	76
Flaxseed.....	227	55	31	24	22
Castor beans.....	3/	86	53	3/	3/
Palm kernels.....	3/	67	62	3/	3/
Other.....	267	264	201	182	108
Total oilseeds.....	3,662	1,911	1,946	1,165	1,135
<u>Vegetable oils:</u>	:	:	:	:	:
Soybean oil.....	-	33	6	-	-
Coconut oil.....	-	119	83	-	-
Peanut oil.....	-	43	24	-	-
Cottonseed oil.....	-	26	19	-	-
Castor oil.....	-	31	23	-	-
Palm oil.....	-	180	170	-	-
Tung oil.....	-	29	25	-	-
Other.....	-	58	21	-	-
Total vegetable oils.....	4/ 309	519	371	5/ 159	5/ 319

1/ Source data in 1,000 metric tons. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Included in other oilseeds. 4/ Prewar breakdown not available. 5/ Monthly breakdown not available.

Source: Compiled from Le Canal de Suez Bulletin, Paris, France.

Shipments northward through the Canal of all oilseeds during the first half of the year of 1,135,000 tons were slightly less than in January-June 1954. Smaller quantities of copra, cottonseed, flaxseed, and "other" oilseeds moving through the Canal more than offset the increased traffic in soybeans and peanuts.

Traffic in vegetable oils during January-June 1955 was twice that of the 1954 period. With only the total movement of vegetable oils reported on a monthly basis, it is believed that the increase in shipments in the first-half of the year is due, in large part, to heavy exports of Indian peanut oil.

CHINA CONTINUES TO BUY COCONUT OIL

Communist China has maintained its steady buying of Singapore's crude coconut oil in the past few months even though local crushers of copra are complaining that they are operating at far less than capacity. Apparently, many of the complaints were merely intended to convince local government officials that dollar exchange should be allowed for purchases of Philippine copra which, in early September, was cheaper. Local traders were awaiting the copra producers meeting in Manila to see whether some of their current problems could be alleviated by suggestions or advice from producers in other areas. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of August 29, 1955.)

CANADA HARVESTS LARGER FLAXSEED, SMALLER SOYBEAN CROPS

Canada's 1955 flaxseed and soybean crops are placed at 21,204,000 and 4,708,000 bushels, respectively, according to the official estimates released on September 30. This volume of flaxseed, now being harvested from an estimated 1,988,000 acres, would be the largest since 1912 when 26,130,000 bushels were produced from 2,022,000 acres. Moreover, this output would represent an increase of about 90 percent from the 1954 harvest of 11,238,000 bushels from 1,206,000 acres. The yield per acre of an estimated 10.7 bushels is considerably larger than the 9.3-bushels yield of 1954. However, some adverse weather the latter part of September may result in a reduction in yield. By mid-September, harvesting was about half completed and seed reportedly was in excellent condition.

Soybean production at 4,708,000 bushels would represent a decrease of 5 percent from last year's record crop of 4,953,000 bushels. The decline is due entirely to the reduction in area--214,000 acres against 254,000 in 1954. The yield per acre is placed at 22.0 bushels compared with 19.5 bushels last year. This is the first time since 1943 that acreage and production of soybeans in Canada have not exceeded that of the previous year. Commercial production of soybeans is confined to Ontario Province although small acreages are grown in other provinces.

CHILE AUTHORIZES FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN EDIBLE OIL INDUSTRY

In the Diario Oficial of September 12, 1955, the Chilean Government published a decree authorizing the establishment in Chile of an industry based upon olive cultivation and extraction of olive oil. The applicant, a resident in Argentina, has extensive edible oil interests in Spain and South America. The total value of this investment is to be \$500,000.

The applicant will make his capital investment in the form of automotive spare parts which will be introduced into Chile for resale, the proceeds then to be utilized for the establishment of olive plantations, extraction plants, and soap factories.

SENEGAL'S 1955-56 PEANUT CROP EXPECTED TO BE UP

The 1955-56 peanut crop in Senegal (French West Africa) is expected to be larger than the 1954-55 crop, according to trade information. The planting season and other factors including weather appear to have been more favorable than for the last crop. Moreover, two crops as poor as the last would hardly be expected to occur in succession. It is probable that about 440,000 short tons of peanuts (shelled basis) may be marketed in Senegal during the next season, which again is expected to open about December 20. No announcement has yet been received as to producers' prices.

The final figures for the 1954-55 Senegal season indicate the marketed crop amounted to only 293,000 short tons, shelled as compared with about 440,000 tons from the previous crop. The low production was due to unfavorable rains during the growing season. Yield on shelling was also lower, being 68 percent as compared with 72 percent for the 1953-54 crop.

The French Sudan is now said to have marketed 88,000 tons, in the shell, from the 1954-55 crop. This was about 45 percent more than the year before.

In French Niger, about 67,000 tons, shelled, were marketed from the 1954-55 crop. Of this amount 63,000 tons were marketed from the east Niger area. This is not much below the average of about 65,000 tons. Continued progress is claimed in shipping Niger peanuts through Dahomey. This year 13,600 tons were shipped by this route in the first 8 months as compared with 5,200 tons in 1954. It is planned this shipment will be increased to 18,000 tons in 1956 and 22,000 tons in 1957.

Marketing in Dahomey reached about 13,000 tons, in the shell. A newly introduced variety has encouraged producers by higher yields in spite of poor growing conditions last year.

In French Guinea, a total of about 8,300 tons, in the shell, were marketed. Only 2,360 tons were marketed as edible peanuts.

In upper Volta, the trend toward decreasing marketing was continued with about 2,200 tons, shelled. This compares with 2,400 tons from the 1953-54 season, 4,400 tons in 1952-53 and 7,250 tons in 1951-52. However, it is said this does not indicate that fewer peanuts are being grown, but that more are being used for local food and are being sold into Ivory Coast markets.

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L A T E N E W S

ITALIAN ALMOND PRICES

Italian almond prices have risen substantially within the past two weeks. On October 1 Prima Bari's were quoted at the equivalent of 72.6 cents per pound f.o.b. Bari compared with 58.1 cents per pound in late August. The present price for cleaned PG's f.o.b. Sicilian ports for U. S. shipment is the equivalent of 78.5 cents per pound.

The entire Italian crop is expected to be even shorter than estimated in late August. Stocks on hand are at exceptionally low levels.

